(b) An amount of Rs. 31.76 lakhs has been spent since 1984.

(c) Further exploration to correlate the Somnath evidence with that of Dwarka is necessary to prepare the final report.

Deletion of Persian from UPSC Syllabus

2072. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to delete Persian from the list of optional subjects for the Union Public Service examinations; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Government have decided to delete Persian, alongwith Arabic, German, French, Russian, Chinese and Pali from the list of optional subjects for the Civil Services Examination. These languages have however been retained in the Syllabus for the 1993 Examination. These languages will not be available as optional subjects for the 1994 Examination onwards.

(b) Considering the negligible number of candidates who opt for these languages as optional subjects for the Civil Services Examination, it has been decided to delete these languages from the syllabus of the 1994 examination.

2703. [*Transferred to 19th March 1993*]

Secretary level Posts in Government of India

2074. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Secretary level posts in the central government services existing at present;

(b) the State-wise strength of IAS/IPS/IFS cadres;

(c) the criteria adopted for the posts; and

(d) whether it is a fact that IAS cadres from some States are not proportionately represented in the important Secretary level posts for years together, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MMNISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The total number of Secretary level posts in the Central Government Services as on 1-3-93 is 100.

(b) The state-wise strength of IAS/IPS/IFS cadres is given at statement. (*See below*).

(c) The criteria adopted for the Secretary level post is as under :-

(i) Thirty years service under Group 'A', and

(ii) At least two years experience in the post carrying a pay of Rs. 7300/- per month or above

(d) The Secretary level posts are filled on the basis of seniority, merit and suitability. The posts at these levels are not considered as posts for betterment of promotion prospects of any service. The needs of the Central Government are given paramount consideration. There is no proportional representation to various state cadres at this level.